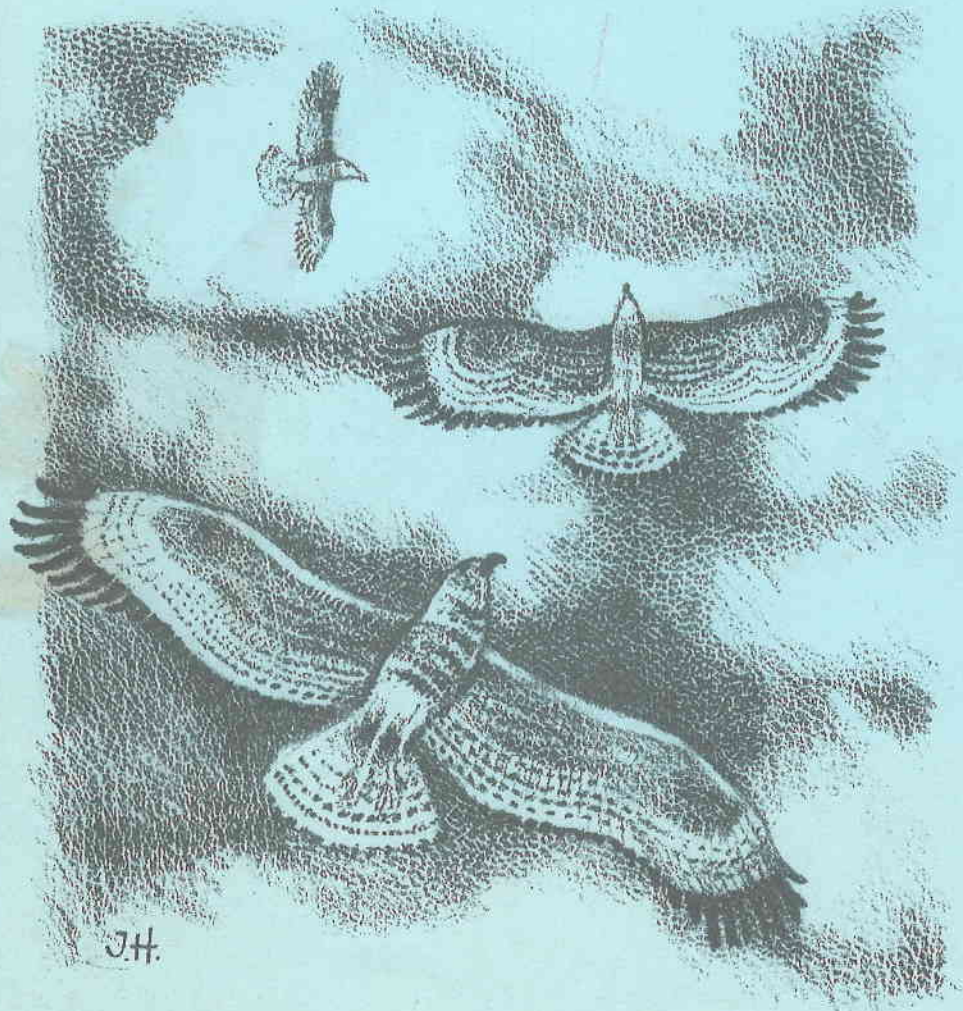


# BLEADON



VILLAGE NEWS 70

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## THE PARISH COUNCIL

PENNY SKELLEY (CHAIRMAN)	'MENDIP CROFT', CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 815331
PENNY ROBINSON (VICE CHAIRMAN)	1, THE VEALE, BLEADON.	TEL. 814142
RAY HICKS	'FIDDLER'S VIEW, HILLCOTE BLEADON HILL.	TEL. 811993
MALCOLM PERRY	'WESTFIELD', 1 THE BARTON, BLEADON.	TEL. 813940
MARY SHEPPARD	'LITTLEWOOD' BRIDGWATER RD., LYMPSHAM.	TEL. 812921
KEITH PYKE	8, WHITEGATE CLOSE, BLEADON.	TEL. 813127
CLIVE MORRIS	20, BLEADON MILL, BLEADON.	TEL. 811591
JUSTIN HARVEY-BENNETT	THE BEECHES, CELTIC WAY, BLEADON.	TEL. 811373
ROBERT HOUSE	LAKE FARM COTTAGES, SHIPLATE ROAD, BLEADON.	TEL. 815588

The Council meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7.30pm, in the Coronation Hall. An agenda is published on the Parish notice board, and any Parishioner who wishes to, may attend these meetings. If there is a particular issue you would like to raise, could you please let the Parish Clerk know in advance and at the latest by the Friday immediately preceding the meeting. This will give him the chance to collect the most up to date information available.

### THE PARISH CLERK TO WHOM ALL CORRESPONDENCE SHOULD BE ADDRESSED IS:-

BRUCE POOLE, 'THE CHIPPINGS', 21 STONELEIGH CLOSE,  
BURNHAM-ON-SEA, SOMERSET TA8 3EE  
TEL. 01278 787555 or e-mail: [bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com](mailto:bruce.poole2@btopenworld.com)

**This Village Newsletter is published four times a year, March, June, September and December. Date sensitive material and publicity notices should reach the Editor well in advance of the event as a definite publishing date cannot be guaranteed.**

**The Deadline for the next issue is 18th November 2006**

Our aim is to provide a copy of this magazine free to every household within the Parish of Bleadon. Those who live outside the Parish may be able to obtain a copy from the Village shop or the Church porch. I should like to thank all those who help with the distribution of the magazine and I hope I can count on your future support. If there are others out there who would like to help please let me know (01934 814142).

Unless otherwise stated the opinions and comments expressed in this magazine are those of the contributor and not of Bleadon Parish Council. Anyone who has a comment to make on the content of this publication or has a contribution for inclusion, should send it to :-

Mrs. Penny Robinson, 1, The Veale, Bleadon. BS24 0NP  
Tel. 01934 814142 | e-mail : [penny.rob@btopenworld.com](mailto:penny.rob@btopenworld.com)

Keep up to date with the Parish Council news and to see this magazine online go-to...

**[www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.bleadonparishcouncil.gov.uk)**



## Chairman's Report

A beautiful summer has brought visitors, families and friends to Bleadon. Many have commented on our splendid village and the value and spirit of our community. So with compliments ringing in our ears, and nearly two years of 'quality status' under our belts, we progress with renewed vitality. Moreover, a great deal of knowledge will be gleaned for our future from the village plan, which will hopefully be presented by the end of the year.

Recently, the Parish Council was invited to a site visit and meeting at Marshalls in order to discuss village complaints over the past year and for the Parish Council to thank them for their ongoing support. We have established a good liaison with Marshalls and will remain in close contact with them. We also continue, in conjunction with the North Somerset Council Highways Department and the Bus Company, to consult over bus routes within the village. Further meetings are being arranged on this topic. At this stage, no decisions have been taken and I would only add that present bus routes will only be maintained provided the level of customers remains substantial.

Your support has been strong for our "multi-faceted entertainment complex", known as the Coronation Hall and Jubilee Room, where most of our social events, clubs, classes and societies are based. We have also seen great enthusiasm too for the Post Office, Tiffins and the Pubs, and hopefully similar support will be seen for the new small businesses and professional enterprises all springing into life in the village.

The Parish Council meets on the second Monday of each month at 7.30pm and attendance by the public is encouraged.

**Penny Skelley, Chairman Parish Council**

## From Your District Councillors



This month's contribution is being typed as our gardens continue to suffer from a continuing shortage of rain, although no doubt by the time you read it, the heavens will have opened! North Somerset Council is in a similar state as staff leave in August and a drought descends on its activities with fewer meetings in the calendar.

However that doesn't mean we have nothing to do..there is always something happening. A recent example has been fly tipping in Facum Lane, probably by block drive contractors although no evidence has come forward to prove it. North Somerset removed the material dumped quickly enough but to prevent a repeat of this and other rubbish dumping it always helps if witnesses can provide any information. Even a van registration number would help and you don't need to get personally involved yourself. Just call one of us when you see it happening.

Elsewhere we had a very interesting visit during July, along with parish council members, at Marshalls in Bridge Road, when we were able to discuss the earlier noise problems and other issues that concern local residents from time to time. The company management was very receptive and we came away satisfied that the meeting had been well worthwhile.

Elsewhere, down at the Town Hall the issue of green bags versus composting has recently had an

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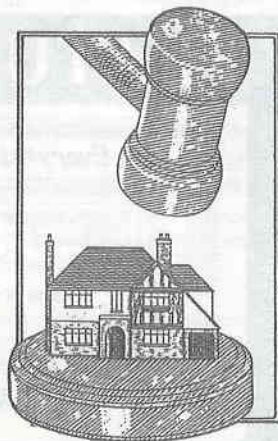
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## From Your District Councillors cont.

airing, with members wondering why we are spending tax payers money taking grass cuttings away instead of encouraging more recycling at home. We actually think there are also questions to be answered on why so many takeaways use polystyrene containers ,which then end up scattered along the A370 ,rather than biodegradable grease proof paper bags. It isn't a health issue and as most of it is eaten more or less straightaway it can't be to keep it hot so why do they do it ? And why do some shops insist on putting goods in polythene bags ,having already wrapped them once in a paper one ! Have you noticed that...and do you ask them to keep the plastic ??

We have put the item on for a future Environment Services Panel agenda , so watch this space .Meanwhile we look forward to hearing from you.

elfan.ap.rees@n-somerset.gov.uk

ian.peddlesden@n-somerset.gov.uk

## Friends of Bleadon Church

Thank you all for supporting our stall at the monthly village market. It adds greatly to our monthly income. Usually the Friends committee members man the stall every month and Sandra Lowton is keeping it well stocked with unbeatable bargains. Tickets for all our events can also be purchased from the stall.



Our Open Tower Day was a great success raising over £100.00. Thanks to all the helpers.

As part of the Weston Arts Festival the Avon & Somerset Police Choir will be performing in the Church on Saturday, 14th October. Tickets will be on sale very soon at £5.00 each. These Festival events always attract a great deal of interest so a good idea to get your tickets early. Again they will be on sale at the Village shop and from Friends.

We hope that Brass Attack (Brass Band Music with a Difference) will be free to perform for us in the Church in November. A date to be fixed so look out for those posters!  
Looking forward to 2007:

- Our Pancake Party will be held in the Church Room on Tuesday, 20th February.
- We hope to have a Victorian Evening in March.
- The May Fayre will be on Bank Holiday Monday, 7th May.
- The Russian, Hermitage Ensemble, from St Petersburg singing in the Church on 24th May.

So the start of a full year ahead of us. If you would like to be a part of it, come and sit in at one of our meetings and you will see what we do.

Interested? Give me a call on 01934 813636.

Brian Drinkwater





## **HARVEST FESTIVAL CELEBRATIONS**

The annual Harvest Celebrations will be on Sunday 24th September with a FAMILY SERVICE at 10.15am. The SUNDAY CLUB will take part in this Service and we will be welcoming our new GUIDE COMPANY. As usual, we ask for gifts of food, mainly tinned, for ease of distribution and storage which may be given to people in need in other parts of Weston. Gifts may be left in Church after the date if you do not receive this Magazine in time. Remember that the Church is generally open Monday to Friday between 9.00am and 5.00pm.

## **EVENSONG OF ALL SOULS (COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPARTED)**

**6.30PM SUNDAY 5th NOVEMBER**

We will remember, and pray for, by name those we know to have died during the past year, together with others you have asked us to remember who have died at any time. Please add names to the list in Church or write to me at The Rectory (or email). Print names in BLOCK CAPITALS, please.

## **REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR**

**SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 11th and 12th NOVEMBER**

The Church will be open at 11.00am on Saturday 11th November for those who wish to join me at THE VILLAGE WAR MEMORIALS in Church for silent prayer and reflection.

On Sunday 12th November (REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY) AT 10.15am there will be our annual SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE WITH TRADITIONAL HYMNS, READINGS AND WREATH LAYING. Will those organisations and individuals wishing to bring wreaths please notify me in advance.

## **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE**

**Sunday 3rd December, 6.30pm**

Led by our augmented choir. We begin our preparations for Christmas.

## **CHRISTINGLE SERVICE and tea party**

**Sunday 10th December, 3.30pm**

There will be a collection for THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY during the Service and children are asked to bring an old, but in good condition, toy or game which can be given to a needy child.

## **ROYAL BRITISH LEGION (BLEADON AND LYMPSHAM BRANCH) CAROL SERVICE**

**Thursday 14th December 2.30pm**

## **FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**Sunday 17th December, 6.30pm**

## **SERVICES, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY**

**SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER**

10.15am Matins for the 4th Sunday of Advent

5.00pm CRIB SERVICE - mainly for children but adults welcome

11.30pm MIDNIGHT MASS OF CHRISTMAS





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## The Parish Church of St. Peter and St. Paul, Bleadon [cont.]

### **MONDAY 25th DECEMBER**

10.15am CAROLS AND CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNION with a chance to choose your favourite carol

As usual, we hope to deliver Christmas Cards to every home in the Parish. If you do not receive yours, please accept our apologies.  
Every good wish for Christmas and the New Year.

Yours sincerely,  
David Parkinson  
Rector

Tel: 01934 812297  
email: Dtparkinson@aol. com

## Bleadon Beat



Thieves are continuing to target motorists; the latest craze is not only to steal handbags & car stereo equipment but to target vehicles with new up to date satellite navigation systems. There have been no reported thefts locally but there have been many in the town over the last few months. With the festive period approaching these expensive items will be on the wish list of many so please take every precaution to safeguard yours.

Be a good neighbour! Unscrupulous gardeners have been in the area again and are suspected of having taken a substantial amount of cash from an elderly resident. They are also thought to have over charged for minor work carried out. If you have an elderly neighbour can you please keep an eye out for them and perhaps ask who they have to do their gardening. Most gardeners charge around £10 an hour plus a little extra for waste removal. If you think your neighbour or yourself are being over charged then arrange for someone else to give a quote. Before having any work carried out I suggest that you agree a price and ensure you have a contact name, address and landline phone number. You may even wish to make a note of their vehicle details. Any legitimate gardener will be more than happy to give this information, as he will want you to recommend his work to others. I strongly advise against having any dealings with anyone reluctant to pass this information.

If you have any concerns then please contact the Police right away.  
Pc 2307 Adrian Woolacott Tel. WsM 638123.  
Police HQ 0845 4567000.

### **Beat Surgeries.**

I shall be holding beat surgeries at the Church Room, from 12.30pm to 2pm, on the following days:

- Fri 13th October
- Thurs 23rd November
- Thurs 21st December

Free confidential advice available.

### **Useful Nos.**

Police HQ - 0845 4567000. Village Beat Office - 638123.

Pc 2307 Adrian Woolacott

## Contactus, Bleadon

### **A VERY SPECIAL EVENT ON SATURDAY 21ST OCTOBER AT 7.30pm IN THE CORONATION HALL**

Contactus has invited Howard and Rosie Smith to come and talk to us about their fascinating books of local interest. Each book is beautifully illustrated from Rosie's water colour pictures and people who have already heard them speak and possess some of their books simply rave about them.

Copies of their books will be on display and Rosie and Howard have offered to sign any copies purchased that evening.

The talk will be followed by a substantial buffet during which time a bar will be open.

Tickets, at £5.00 each will soon be available from members of Contactus committee or from Bleadon Post Office.

Proceeds are in aid of future projects including Welcome Parties etc. John Thomlinson

## Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club

The club does not meet in the summer, so this should be a very short report, but the summer season is when we engage in extra curricular activities, so there is much to write about. Since the last report we have played our final game for the 2005-06 season, and finished with an end of season party at the Coronation Hall. The food had been prepared by Ann Hurcome and a small group of members. All present agreed that it was a great way to end the season.

In July, after an anxious start, caused by the coach arriving half an hour late, we enjoyed a steam train trip to Minehead and a cream tea.

Some members have attended Clarence Park to experience full length bowls on the grass rinks. They were so impressed by the experience that they have made several return visits.

At the end of this month (August) a trip on a horse drawn barge has been arranged.

We shall be back in the hall towards the end of September. New members, experienced or not, are always welcome. We can provide the bowls. Why not join us at the AG.M. On the 15th of September?





**Saturday October 7th at 7.30pm in St. John the Baptist Church, Churchill**

### **The Bochmann Quartet**

"Passion, drama and energy" – BBC Music Magazine describing the Bochmann Quartet. One of the finest quartets in the country, which has toured internationally and made numerous recordings and broadcasts will launch Churchill Music! 's sparkling new season in St. John the Baptist Church, Churchill on Saturday October 7th 7.30pm.

Michael Bochmann who partnered Yehudi Menuhin in Bach's Double Violin Concerto in a tour of eighteen concerts in the USA and Britain, was appointed concertmaster of the English String and Symphony Orchestras in 1988. His quartet, the Bochmann, whose performances are described by The Sunday Times as "exemplary" will perform a sumptuous programme of works by Mozart, Boccherini, Puccini and Schubert.

At the age of just 19, Mark Messenger, Violin, made his Wigmore Hall debut. Since then he has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in all of London's major concert halls and throughout the world. He has broadcast many times on television and radio, and has been recorded by no less than six labels. Mark is also leader of the European Chamber Opera,

Violist, Helen Roberts is equally impressive joining the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra at the age of 19. She joined Bochmann String Quartet and has performed and recorded a wide repertoire to critical acclaim. Helen is also a regular guest principal with the BBC National Orchestra of Wales and Welsh National Opera Orchestra and frequently appears with the CBSO.

Cellist Peter Adams was made principal 'cellist with the London String Orchestra and was the youngest ever professor at the Royal Academy of Music. Peter joined the Bochmann Quartet in 1996, and a year later he was appointed to the Principal Chair of the English String and Symphony Orchestras.

It is hardly believable that a quartet of this stature could be heading for a small village church in Churchill. But this is the norm for this unique organisation which aims not only to bring top quality musicians to local people at affordable prices but to local school children as well through their Churchill Music! Youth Project. For more information and tickets contact Ursula Dornton 01934 852919 or Jan Murray 01934 852245

TELEPHONE: 01634 812206

Gas nowadays is taken for granted as a source of heat, but how many of us have ever experienced gas lighting? I first came across it in about 1950 in my Grandmother's Victorian house in the middle of Chippenham, and coming from electrically-lit cottage in rural Hertfordshire I thought it decidedly primitive. Yet in Spring of 1946 the family that moved into the cottage at the foot Purn Lane welcomed gas light as a luxury; their old home in Burrowbridge was lit by oil lamps.

I learned about this and many other aspects of life in early post-war Bleadon from a fascinating autobiographical booklet (lent to me by Tony Moore) by Graham Baker, one of the family concerned. The booklet ends with Graham volunteering for the Parachute Regiment and passing the training course with ease – no mean feat, but no surprise either when you have read of his intensely active and often harsh upbringing.

Consider, for example, his four years (11-15) at Walliscote School, throughout which he helped on the late Fred Wall's milk round, being picked up at 6.40 each morning and finishing at the school gates at 8.50 – and early version of the school run. During school holidays this was supplemented by working on the local farms. A ten-hour day haymaking would be followed by a swim in the river Axe in order to cool off and clean up.

Thanks to a new farm owner home conditions improved – electricity, a bathroom and a flush toilet – though the family were still overcrowded. Corporal punishment (with a leather belt) was all too frequent, and to any readers who snort that it never did them any harm I would gently suggest that they might possibly have been even more perfect without it.

There is no mention of radio, television or a family car. Combine that with an overcrowded cottage and it is no wonder that spare time was spent mainly out of doors, or that Graham joined the newly-formed Scout troop.

Farming as a local livelihood loomed much larger in those days. At Purn alone there were no fewer than five farms, and there was not the massive modern machinery that has eliminated most of the modern workforce. The pitchfork had not been superseded by the fork-lift. Consequently there were plenty of farmers and workers to take part in the annual Hill Sports, where the boy Graham acted as runner between the events and the Judges tent.

The booklet (40pages) is packed with incidents and accidents, some amusing and some very serious, even upsetting. There is no self-pity in the accounts of hardship and unfairness but they certainly dispel any illusions that agricultural life was some kind of blissful rustic idyll. In his opening paragraph Graham states that he is writing for the benefit of his descendants. They have much to be grateful for.

Les Masters

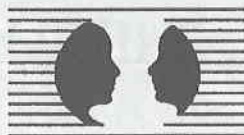
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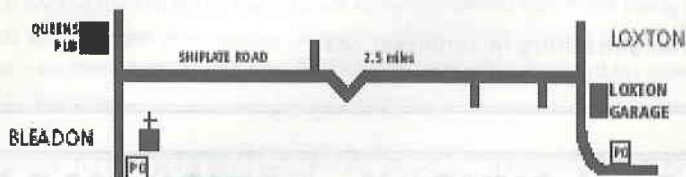
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## Keeping Warm at Home

### KEEPING WARM AT HOME AND BEING ENERGY EFFICIENT AT THE SAME TIME!

**Are you cold at home? Are you worried about the next fuel bill? Do you want to be more energy efficient... and reduce your fuel bills?**

Here are 6 ways to be warmer, save money, and do your bit for the environment !

1 Shut the curtains at dusk. This will ensure that the heat stays inside your home to heat you and not the outside. Do not hang them over the radiators as this will prevent the heat from going into the room. Either line the curtains or hang up an old pair behind them to increase their thickness. This will help to stop heat escaping.

2 Make sure your hot water tank is well insulated. You can buy a tank jacket from most DIY shops for about £10 - 15. You will recover the cost in reduced fuel bills in about a year. The recommended thickness of the jacket is at least 50 mm (approx. 2 inches).

3 Set your hot water tank thermostat to 60oC. Any higher than this and you are wasting energy and money. It should not be set lower than 55oC for health reasons.

4 Invest in low energy light bulbs especially for lights that are on for long periods of time. You will recover the cost by having lower electricity bills.

5 Don't leave the 'red' button (standby button) on your electrical appliances, this includes, TV's, stereos, computers etc, you are using almost as much electricity as you would if you were using the appliance.

6 Make sure you take advantage of the grants and discounts available for insulation and heating measures, to make your home warmer in Winter and cooler in Summer !

There is no catch. You may receive a full grant or discount, this would entitle you to one or more of the following energy efficiency measures:

- loft insulation
- draught proofing
- cavity wall insulation
- a hot water tank jacket
- low energy light bulbs
- energy advice
- new central heating.

For further information, a home visit, talk or display at a community event, please contact:

Kim Herivel  
Home Energy Efficiency Officer  
North Somerset Council  
kim.herivel@n-somerset.gov.uk  
Tel 01934 634807  
Fax 01934 634879

## Bleadon Youth Club

The Management Committee would very much like to thank Rector David Parkinson and Brian McGrath (who relinquish their responsibilities as Chairman and Secretary respectively) for their enthusiastic involvement, support and guidance over many years.

BYC continues to flourish with membership at around 40 young people. In addition to use of the Club building on the usual Tuesday and Thursday evenings a variety of external activities have taken place this summer including horse riding, surfing, swimming and BBQ's.

The Committee are always looking for keen volunteers to create and support a programme of activities and help with maintenance of the Club.

One of the main challenges concerns the raising of funds to provide a much needed replacement heating system. A recent survey of the current warm-air heating system (installed when the facility was built some 40 years ago) has resulted in the boiler being condemned for use. With the winter months approaching, it is important to ensure the Club provides a safe and comfortable environment for our young people to meet. We will be actively fundraising for a new heating system, but any contribution from the community would be greatly received!!

We are in the process of improving the outside of the Club - you may have noticed the new colour!! The ground adjacent to the Club is being prepared for a new patio area for which block paving has been kindly donated by Marshalls. We envisage this area as a great place to meet with patio furniture, pots and plants!!

If you would like to know more about BYC and it's plans, please contact Kim Herivel (Chair) on 812931 or Keith Pyke (Vice Chair) on 813127.

## Bleadon Friendship Group

Our forthcoming club agenda until Christmas is as follows;

SEPTEMBER	29th	Harvest.
OCTOBER	6th	Wildlife Road Show- Dot Baker
	13th	Quiz
	20th	Wisley and Rosemoor - Chris Cudlipp
	27th	Greyhound Rescue – Rhona Whiteway
NOVEMBER	3rd	Films – Graham Wiltshire
	4th	Coffee Morning ( do come and join us)
	10th	Wartime Songs (CD's Etc)
	17th	Flower Arranging – Margaret' Down
	24th	Beetle
DECEMBER	1st	Collections (Personal)
	8th	Quiz
	15th	Poems for Christmas

CLUB REOPENS JANUARY 12th 2007 – NEW YEAR LUNCH 26th JAN.



## Bleadon Coronation Hall Management Committee



At this time of the year (mid-August), things are quiet in both Halls, most village organisations having their summer break and preparing their winter programmes.

Back in June it was nice to see that a party had been arranged in the Hall to celebrate Harry Chatterley's 80th birthday. His family and many friends were there for the big occasion, and it was inevitable that Harry just had to prove that many a tune could be played on his old fiddle! Possibly many Hall users are not aware that Harry gave up several years in order to build the hall extension, now The Jubilee Room, following the demolition of the old scout hut. Perhaps the family should pencil in a booking for his 90th celebration.

Len Chamberlain (Chairman) | Reg. Charity No. 1042602

## The Horticultural Society



At the time of writing we are busy preparing for our 33rd Annual Summer Flower Show, which is always held on the first Saturday in September.

The last meeting of the year was very successful as a full coach of members and friends visited the RHS Gardens in Devon, after an enjoyable coffee stop in Tiverton on the way 'down' to Great Torrington.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 17th when Lynn Spencer-Smith, the Chairperson of the Somerset Federation of garden Clubs, will be giving us an illustrated talk called 'A Garden for Retirement'.

On Tuesday November 21st Paul Gilmore from Sanders Garden World will be giving us his sure to be entertaining talk on 'Autumn into Winter in the Garden'.

Both of these talks are held in the Coronation hall at 7.30pm. and are open to anyone at £1 admission.

The prelude to Christmas i.e. The Beetle Drive plus American – style supper will beheld again in the Coronation Hall on December 19th at 7.30pm. Tickets for this fun packed evening will be available nearer the time.

Chris Cudlipp

## Bleadon Folk Club

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month starting on September 7th at 7.45pm in the Coronation Hall.

You don't have to dance.

Learners most welcome.

Entry cost is just £1.50 and soft drinks are provided.

Callers are John Thomlinson and John Price.

Ring Jean on Bleadon 814007



## Bleadon Ladies Club

The members have all enjoyed a lovely summer. The highlight of which was our very successful Annual Outing to Sidmouth stopping off at Honiton for the Market and lunch at Ottery St Mary. The weather was perfect so we all had a very good day



The autumn program is as follows

### **September 12th**

"New England in the Fall"

Mr Gordon Tarrant

### **October 10th**

Sanders Garden World

### **November 14th**

Annual General Meeting

"A Pedestal Arrangement"

Mrs Penny Skelley

So as you can see it would be well worth joining our club to hear some very good speakers and to make new friends. The club meets the second Tuesday of the month in Coronation Hall at 2.30pm. New members will always be most welcome.

The Christmas Lunch will be at Batch Hotel on December 12th

For more information on any of these items or for a chat about the club

**Call Barbara on 814362**

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EDITOR.....penny.rob@btopenworld.com

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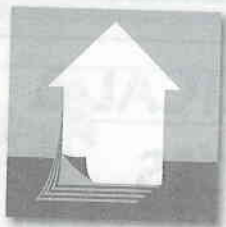
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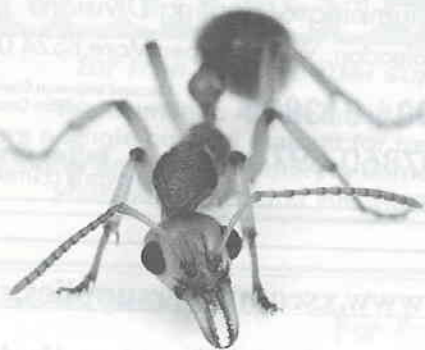
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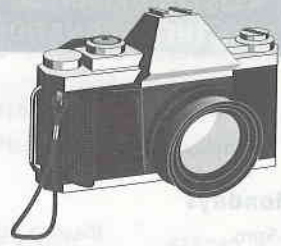
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## Moving With The Times



With digital imaging now well established, not only within camera clubs but with the general public at large, it has become essential that due regard is given to the correct way in which the medium is used. Many users take on a new camera because it is the latest new toy without learning to use it to their advantage and expect better results merely by the fact that it is the "latest camera". Oh how wrong they can be. I have said for a long time that the camera will only record that which is presented before it, and that is true of film cameras and digital, and that it is the person behind the camera that makes the picture. Nothing has change with the advent of digital cameras except to get to understand what digital can do to improve your own techniques. To this end we as a group of dedicated amateur photographers want to find out how to get to terms with digital and at the same time improve our own images. Users need to know the short comings as well as the advantages and to be able to use the equipment for their own benefit and by doing so gain the maximum enjoyment from the investment. After all you wouldn't buy a car without knowing how to drive it. So in order to achieve this the Group have a "Digital Workshop" session once a month when visiting acknowledged masters of the art give lectures supported by visual presentations. Why not come along to any of the sessions to see if you can gain improvement to you own understanding. These workshops are usually on the first Tuesday of each month with the first one on 3rd October. We have some excellent speakers arranged with people like Rod Lawton coming on 7th November, a journalist who writes on digital cameras and materials in the national press and most allied magazines. He is followed by Denzil Ellis A.R.P.S. on 5th December an expert in the medium. Tony Poole A.R.P.S. will be the speaker on 30d'. January, who, having dispensed with his wet darkroom, is now an expert in digital print making. On 6d'. March we have a return visit of Betty Billingham L.R.P.S. by popular demand who will be showing her beautiful audio visual work all produced digitally. Looking forward to welcoming some of you to the area's premier photographic club.

Ken Tapley.

Chairman. Bleadon Photographic Group.

## A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALLS



### **Mondays**

		<b>Contact</b>	
2-5pm	Bleadon Bridge Club	Mr D Munden	812772
10am-noon	Marie's Mini Movers**	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7-9pm	Exercise Class **	Mrs M Keele	07939 038 071
7.30pm 1st Monday	British Sugarcraft Guild W.S.M. Branch	Mrs F Hatcher	620784
7.30pm 2nd Monday	Bleadon Parish Council	Mr B Poole, Clerk	01278 787555

### **Tuesdays**

10am-noon	Tatty Bumpkins**	Mrs S Hancock	815157
2-4pm 2nd Tuesday	Bleadon Ladies Group	Mrs B Pugh	814362
2.30-4.30pm 1st,3rd,4th	Bleadon Short Mat Bowling Club** Sept-June	Mrs J Tiney	813893
6-7.30 pm 7.45-9.00 (term time)	Bleadon Brownies** Bleadon Guides**	Mrs R Hemmings Mrs B Ware	811891 811545
7.30 pm 1st,2nd,4th,5th	Bleadon Photographic Group Sept-May	Mr K Tapley	623877
7.30 pm 3rd – Oct-June	Bleadon Horticultural Society	Mr C Cudlipp	813152

## A LIST OF ORGANISATIONS WHICH REGULARLY USE THE CORONATION HALLS

### Wednesdays

		Contact	
10am-noon 2nd & 4th	Infant Welfare Clinic & Toddler Group	The Health Visitor at the Clinic	
10am-noon 1st,3rd & 5th	Toddler Group	Mrs E Knight	625089
1.30pm	Yoga Class	Mrs D Marsh	750438
7.30pm	Bleadon Players/Rehearsals	Mrs S Kelly	645135
7.45-10pm (term time)	Ballroom & Sequence Dancing	Mr L Masters	811976

### Thursdays

10-12 noon	Art: Watercolour painting class**	Weston College	01275 810659
8.00pm 1st & 3rd Thurs	Bleadon Folk Dancing Group Sept-June	Mrs J Thorne	814007
7.30pm 4th Thursday	Bleadon Sugarcraft Club	Mrs P Webb	01278 684484

### Fridays

2-4pm	Bleadon Friendship Club	Mrs B Davies	813363
7.00pm Sept-June	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893

### Sundays

2.30 Sept-June	Short Mat Bowling Club**	Mrs J Tiney	813893
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\*\*in the Jubilee Room

The Halls are available for hire by private individuals or organisations.

There is a reduced rate for Bleadon residents. ENQUIRIES: 812370

## WHAT'S ON - IN THE CORONATION HALLS - MAKE A NOTE IN YOUR DIARY NOW!

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	<b>Event:</b>	<b>Organisation/Contact:</b>
Sat, 21st October 7.30 pm	CONTACTUS – Talk on local History	Mr J Thomlinson 812436
Sat, 4th November 10am-noon	Coffee Morning	Friendship Club 813284
Sat, 25th November 7.30 pm	Quiz in aid of CLIC	Mrs P Dain 812859
Sun, 10th December Afternoon	Christingle Party	Church Friends
Thurs/Fri/Sat 10/11/12 January	PANTOMIME	Bleadon Players 625452
VILLAGE MARKETS in 2006/7: 21st October, 18th November, 2nd December – Christmas Market – Not to be Missed! 20th January, 17th February.		812370

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE CORONATION HALLS!

The first meeting of the **Bleadon Guides** will be held on Tuesday 12th September in the Jubilee Room from 7.45 to 9 pm. Well done to Bella Ware for all her hard work in getting this going. The Bleadon Guides will be dedicated in the Church on Sunday 24th September.



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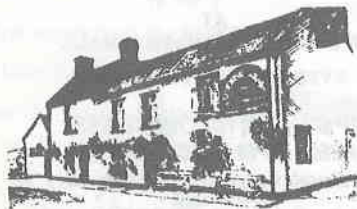
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### The General

A stocky little man, his faded red hair peppered with grey and with curiously hot brown eyes under pale lashes that gave him an angry pop-eyed look. He often wore tweed jackets with leather inserts at the elbow, a thing I'd not seen before, and stout brown shoes with lots of holes in the uppers that Mum said were called brogues. He'd been a Brigadier General in the Royal Engineers.

"Had to come down-market Old Boy," the General admitted to Dad, shortly after he moved in, "getting that wretched son of mine through Sandhurst nearly bankrupted me." He also spoke of a 'blasted Cheltenham woman', apparently another drain on his meagre pension; a bounty deridingly described as 'the thanks of a grateful country after forty years service'.

It didn't take him long to get a grip of village affairs. Having a pronounced faith in his own abilities, within eighteen months the General was Chairman of every organisation in sight; the only escapees being the WI and the Over 60's Gentle Exercise Group. He also started a British Legion charity shop in town but by brusquely refusing to accept anything for sale that he broadly defined as 'rubbish' coupled with continual staff problems it soon closed. Turnover of committee members in his organisations became legendary. Dad, Company Secretary for J S Fry at Keynsham, was recruited in typical military fashion.

"Ah! Matthews," the General called over the dividing fence, "you're a Secretary of sorts I believe?" Dad nodded. "Job for you on the Parish Council then," he continued, shaking his head in disgust, "our blasted fellow's resigned!"

"Taraa! Taraa!" Dad mimicked when he told us, "duty calls." Holding a finger to his head he pulled an imaginary trigger. Afterwards Mum declared that was an omen. As Dad often said, she was gifted with hindsight.



The General's personal life was a source of speculation in the village, he lived alone - we never saw the wretched son or the blasted woman from Cheltenham - the only female who ever crossed the threshold was old Mrs Arnold who 'did' for him two days a week. She said the place was spotless.

"'Place for everythin' and everythin' in place' 'e ses," she recounted. "Do's 'is own washin' an' ironing. Mine 'e 'as some funny ways."

Dad said most retired senior army officers were potty about something and often took a keen interest in the welfare of fallen women; the latter remark prompting a 'not in front of the boy' look from Mum. Actually I thought that helping ladies who'd injured themselves in falls, whilst

## A Short Story [cont.]

puzzling, presented a kindly aspect to his character.

I soon discovered the General's particular pottiness was the prophetic significance of the Great Egyptian Pyramid of Khufu at Gizeh. He was a pyramidologist he told me and Dad bid me look it up in the dictionary. The General, I discovered, was someone who drew mystical conclusions from the height, shape, placement and measurement of pyramids. The internal dimensions of the structure at Gizeh also conveyed the secrets of the universe. Apparently those who understood these things could use them as an immense stone almanac.

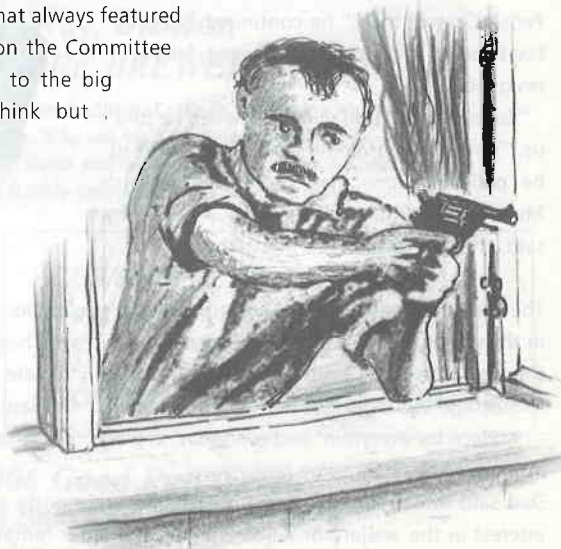
Dad laughed when I told him, "Like most almanacs, great for telling you the dates of things that have already happened but a bit hazy about the future."

One day the General showed me some diagrams, unrolling the large stiff parchments across his kitchen table. "It's coming m'boy," he warned sternly, gripping my arm fiercely, his eyes popping, "yes its coming again, set in stone for all to see. Hope your generation rises to the challenge as we did."

He became a difficult neighbour, at loggerheads from the beginning with the adjoining Misses Farrant and their many cats and eventually even complaining of our playing French cricket in the garden on Sundays. A churchwarden now, he spoke to the Vicar about it and he poor soul, had been ordered to 'have a word in our ears'. The General's sport was county cricket, 'the summer game' he called it though it was not the game it used to be of course. His cricket reminiscences were peopled with characters with improbable names: HGD Leaveson-Gower, W Barrington-Dalby, Dredge, Lobb and Yapp. Highlight of his year was the local cricket festival that always featured one first-class game. Naturally he was on the Committee and once took friend Andrew and me to the big match, it was Somerset v Derbyshire I think but . . . I'll never forget the journey.

He owned a pre-war Lanchester car, funereal black with a shed-like interior and unyielding leather seats.

"Now, no talking while I'm driving," he growled as we settled in the back. He drove quite slowly, constantly sounded his horn, not only as a warning but also as a rebuke to other drivers; practically all of whom he considered were driving with criminal recklessness. Invariably he complained of approaching vehicles





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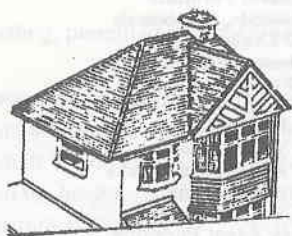
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## A Short Story [cont.]

encroaching on his road space and would lower his window to imperiously wave them over and sometimes shout as they passed. "Get over blast you", or, "hell d'you think you're doing?" He had a reserved parking space at the ground and we prayed for fear of the consequences that it would be unoccupied when we arrived and luckily it was.

Sadly it was my interest in sport, football in this case, that proved the General's downfall - well that and the cat. Pride of the Farrants' feline family was an overweight specimen named Posy. Too fat and slow to chase anything, Posy often lurked near the General's cold frames to snatch up unwary birds. One Sunday, trying to imitate my hero big Geoff Bradford of Bristol Rovers who had recently been capped for England, I sliced a thunderbolt over the General's hedge and there followed the sickening tinkle of breaking glass. The noise must have startled the General from his afternoon nap and on seeing this gross cat slinking across his lawn, obviously fleeing the scene of the crime, he went berserk. Taking up a revolver, he started firing and quickly chopped poor old Posy to pieces. He then began randomly shooting at items in the Misses Farrants' garden, reloading the gun several times until his ammunition was spent.

Dad had locked the doors when the firing began and we gathered in the cellar. Later, when things quietened, he went to see if the Misses Farrant themselves had been harmed but they were out. On the way back he met the General, he quietly deadheading roses in his front garden, and together they sat and talked quite rationally until the police arrived and took the General away. I heard Dad describe it to Mum, 'like sitting near a recently active volcano'. I was really disappointed that I never saw the gun. Dad thought it was a retirement present from the Army and said they should be given clocks like everyone else.



**IF YOU OWN A DOG PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW IT TO FOUL THE  
FOOTPATHS AND VERGES OF OUR VILLAGE. THE RESULTING  
MESS IS UNSIGHTLY AND A SOURCE OF INFECTION.  
BE A GOOD CITIZEN AND CARRY A POOP-SCOOP OR A  
PLASTIC BAG AND TAKE THE MESS HOME.  
PLEASE DON'T LEAVE IT FOR OTHERS TO CLEAN UP.**

## The Other Bus Service

If you want a bus to Weston the 83 via Celtic Way is not your only option. There is also the 102/112 service along the A370, with stops at Bridge Garage and near Purn Caravan Park, which has three big advantages:

- The journey into Weston is only about 10 minutes.
- It runs until late in the evening
- It runs on Sundays

The service is hourly, and there is a timetable on the stop by the Caravan Park.

### FROM SARA OSBORNE AND FAMILY

Kate, Helen, Timothy and I wish to thank everyone in the Village for their support and sympathy following David's death. We had no idea he had touched so many areas of village life. Although David only had just over a year of retirement, I know he had loved every minute and spent many happy hours on the allotment. We hope whoever follows on will also experience this.

### BOB McKAY

**Marian, Katie, Matthew and Daniel would like to thank everyone for their kind thoughts, cards, flowers and donations to GDBA.**

**It made us appreciate what a lovely village Bleadon Is. Bob loved it so much.**

**Marian McKay**

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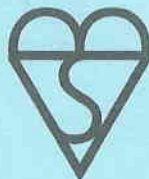


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